

I want to thank the West Mesa Mustangs for pushing themselves and for creating a bright future for themselves and for our community. Again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

HEALTHCARE AT THREE MONTHS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, you may remember that the American people were told that Congress had to pass the health care bill so they could find out what was in it.

After 3 months, the American people have found out what was in the new law, and they still don't like it. The latest Rasmussen poll from just this week shows that 55 percent oppose the law. And they have good reasons to be upset.

New HHS rules published just a few weeks ago will mean that many companies and individuals will be forced to change to plans that meet the government's new standards. So much for "if you like your plan you can keep it," as the President said.

For seniors, CBO reports that half of all Medicare Advantage plans will end in the coming years. Seniors who were receiving vision and dental coverage on these plans will now be forced to buy costly supplemental coverage. The more layers we peel away, the less there is to like about ObamaCare.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis, siding with special interests, i.e., the Wall Street investment banks. These economic and fiscal policies created the Bush recession, the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month and nearly doubling our national debt.

Democrats in Congress will continue to take America in a new direction, creating good American jobs, lowering taxes for the middle class and for small business, and building a strong new foundation for the economy and for Main Street instead of Wall Street.

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CONGRATULATING NEW JOURNEYS TRANSITIONAL HOME

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I would like to recognize an outstanding south Florida organization, New Journeys Transitional Home. This home is committed

to decreasing the rate of homelessness among young women in south Florida. It provides an immediate, safe, affordable, and nurturing housing environment that promotes independence and self-sufficiency.

New Journeys Transitional Home serves those who have a desire to achieve educational and employment goals, as well as those with a motivation to progress through the program. This wonderful organization provides young women with workshops to help strengthen their educational and employment goals, their interviewing skills, and improve their self-esteem.

Due to its generosity and dedication, New Journeys Transitional Home has helped so many young women in my community in south Florida. I would like to commend all the individuals involved in the organization. Through their service and support, they help our community and they help so many young women in our Nation.

Thank you for your devotion; thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of south Floridians in need.

PASS THE HOME STAR ENERGY RETROFIT BILL

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, America needs jobs. The unemployment is too high, and there are concrete things that we can do to create jobs. One is to pass the Home Star Energy Retrofit bill into law. The Senate has to act. The House passed it on a bipartisan basis last year.

It's a partnership between homeowners, the private sector, and government. It will create 170,000 jobs where we need them the most: in manufacturing; in retail, by getting customers to the local hardware stores; and in construction, by putting out-of-work home builders to work retrofitting homes.

This is a triple play. It will allow us to save \$10 billion in energy bills, it will put 170,000 out of work folks to work, and it will help homeowners save on their energy bills.

MCDONALD V. CITY OF CHICAGO

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, yesterday the United States Supreme Court upheld a Federal appeals court ruling overturning a law prohibiting private citizens from possessing handguns in the City of Chicago. This is a momentous decision, and I commend the justices for protecting our right to gun ownership.

The Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to keep and bear arms. However, for too long this right has been denied to some Americans

simply because of where they reside. This 5-4 decision was the right one, though the close margin underscores the necessity to remain vigilant to future attempts to curtail our right to bear arms.

Residents across this country should be able to exercise their constitutional rights to protect themselves and their families. I am committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all law-abiding, freedom-loving Americans, and I invite my colleagues to join me.

PUT FORWARD CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, as we work to resolve our Nation's fiscal crisis, we must have bipartisan cooperation to best find ways to balance economic recovery and job creation with long-term deficit reduction. Americans clearly understand the danger of debt and the need for a serious long-term plan. What they don't understand is sound bites and political rhetoric.

And so to my Republican colleagues, as you come to the well today, put your ideas on the table. It doesn't help to demagogue this issue. The fact is, and it remains, President Obama inherited a \$11 trillion debt on day one, and we are trying to recover. The American people need your constructive ideas.

FAILURE TO PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, for the first time since 1974, the House has failed to pass a budget resolution. Instead of making tough decisions, congressional Democrats have chosen to keep their heads in the sand. A problem won't go away just by ignoring it. It will require real leadership and a commitment to fiscal discipline to tackle the out-of-control spending and debt that threatens our economic prosperity. Failure to even propose a budget fundamentally means that congressional Democrats have no plan and are content to ignore our skyrocketing debt.

Madam Speaker, the American people know it's a failure of leadership to ignore the massive tax increases and the crushing burden of debt Washington is leaving our children and grandchildren.

HONORING RUBY BATT'S ARCHIE

(Mr. PERRIELLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, southern Virginia lost a legend, a lion, and a beloved leader.